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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The 1996 Telecommunications Act allows competitive carriers like LMi.net to rent bare copper lines from incumbent carriers, and to use spare fiber between cities. These critical unbundled network elements (UNEs) enable LMi.net to deploy equipment and provide our Phlo and Phiber services, and to backhaul our gigabit fiber service. UNE copper services enable our fiber deployment by allowing us to aggregate demand and serve members while we deploy fiber.

The bottom line: If the present petition passes, it will eliminate the right of independent carriers to serve customers on copper lines, and to use fiber to connect our networks around the state. That would impair our ability to deploy new gigabit fiber service.

Small ISPs are committed to deploying gigabit fiber infrastructure, bringing fast affordable internet and telecom to all.

There is already too little competitive choice in internet access and telecom service, and if the petition is approved, independent carriers across the country will lose access to critical network elements, and consumers could lose their choice of providers.

The Telecom's backbone was build using US Tax Payer's money, so they should be treated in a way to allow small ISPs to compete in the market place. Is good for the US Tax Payer's, it is good for business.

Ricardo Canepa